



## **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO POLICE ALARM USERS**

To Whom It May Concern:

A Police Alarm Systems ordinance became effective on February 19, 1996. The primary intent of this ordinance is to reduce the risks, time, and related cost factors associated with the dramatic increase in false alarms that the Police Department has been experiencing.

The alarm ordinance regulates the types of alarms allowed, limits the number of false activation's, and includes many other relevant issues; however, the ordinance does not regulate vehicle alarms and fire alarms. A synopsis of this ordinance can be found on the reverse side of this letter. A complete copy of the alarm ordinance may be obtained at the Police Department or online at [www.stcharlesil.gov/codebook](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/codebook) under Title 9/Section 9.05.

The ordinance requires that all police alarm users must secure an Alarm User's Permit or be subject to a \$300.00 fine. For your convenience, an application for the permit has been enclosed with this notice. The application should be completed and returned to the Police Department immediately, either by mail or by faxing the completed application to 630-377-1078.

Should you have any questions or need further information concerning this ordinance, please contact Deputy Chief Steve Huffman of Administrative Services of the St. Charles Police Department at 630-377-4435.

Thank you for your cooperation.

slh

JAMES E. LAMKIN *Chief of Police*

211 NORTH RIVERSIDE AVENUE

ST. CHARLES, IL 60174

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[www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov)

## **POLICE ALARM SYSTEMS ORDINANCE SYNOPSIS**

Following is a synopsis of the more relevant aspects of the city ordinance regarding police alarm systems.

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CONTENT SYNOPSIS</u>												
9.05.010	Sets for the purpose and intent												
9.05.020	Provides all relevant definitions of words and phrases used.												
9.05.030	Establishes that a permit is required for all police alarms. There is no fee for the permit. A permit must be obtained for each address in which a separate alarm is operated Permits are valid indefinitely unless revoked. It is unlawful to operate an alarm system if your permit is revoked. (See 9.05.120)												
9.05.040	Specifies the kind of information required on the application. Incomplete applications will not be approved. Defines the circumstances under which an application would be denied. Identifies the Chief of Police as the responsible party for processing and issuing alarm user permits.												
9.05.050	Establishes a \$300 fine for each alarm activation at premises which do not have a valid permit.												
9.05.060	Requires the alarm user to update permit information within 14 days of the required information becoming outdated or inaccurate.												
9.05.070	Prohibits the transfer of the alarm permit												
9.05.080	Regulates the use of audible outside alarms and requires automatic reset after 10 minutes of any audible outside alarm.												
9.05.090	Prohibits automatic dialers connected directly to 911 lines.												
9.05.100	Prohibits knowingly activating a false alarm.												
9.05.110	Establishes a fine structure for more than two false alarms during a calendar year as follows: <table><tr><td>3<sup>rd</sup></td><td>False Alarm</td><td>\$ 25.00 fine</td></tr><tr><td>4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup></td><td>False Alarm</td><td>\$ 50.00 fine per false alarm</td></tr><tr><td>6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup></td><td>False Alarm</td><td>\$100.00 fine per false alarm</td></tr><tr><td>10 or more</td><td></td><td>\$300.00 fine per false alarm</td></tr></table>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	False Alarm	\$ 25.00 fine	4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	False Alarm	\$ 50.00 fine per false alarm	6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	False Alarm	\$100.00 fine per false alarm	10 or more		\$300.00 fine per false alarm
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9.05.120	Provides for revocation of permit after ten false alarms. Provides for revocation of permit for non-payment of fines. Establishes a \$300 fine for each false alarm after revocation of permit. Provides for an appeal process and criteria for reinstatement of permit.												
9.05.130	Requires prior notice when testing alarm equipment.												
9.05.140	Liability clause.												
9.05.150	Severability clause.												
9.05.160	Sets forth penalties for violations of provisions of the ordinance not having a fine structure already attached.												